Culminating Video Assignment for Elie Wiesel’s Night: My Process

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This project is a culminating assignment for a unit covering Elie Wiesel’s *Night.* The students have finished reading the book and have demonstrated mastery of the subject. This assignment attempts to leave the student with an understanding that creating essential questions strengthens their ability to think critically. I created a video about Moshe the Beadle, an essential character to the comprehension of *Night.* This video offers both a linguistic and nonlinguistic representation of Moshe the Beadle’s function in the story. The video asks a question pertaining to what makes something believable. No answers are offered because I want the students to construct answers on their own and also ask more questions. This book lends itself to this idea because the entire book is a question about faith in God.

The video also serves a work sample for the students. This is a multi-layered experience for the student. It would be virtually impossible for students not to experience some sort of metacognitive brain activity. I know this from creating the video. I experienced an infinite thought process where creating questions led to the creation of even more questions.

After the students watch the video, they will answer the essential question “Why didn’t the people of Sighet believe what Moshe the Beadle told them about the concentration camps, yet an entire population believed the Nazi propaganda?” The students will create three of their own questions relating to the video. However, I did give the option to create more general questions from the entire novel. I did this to differentiate the lesson. Most likely, not all students will operate on the same level.

Students will take their three questions and collaborate in small groups of three. They will discuss and process answers for all questions, eventually picking one. This one question will be the basis for a video that they will create, present, and publish. I hope to share the video with another classroom outside of South Carolina. This virtual activity would be a celebration.

This entire process will take more than a week. A few lessons on video editing and copyright law will be essential.